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DECISIONS FOR THE  
GOOD OF THE GAMETrustees Give Their Reasons for Denying the  
Elks' Protest—Baseball Must  
Be Protected.

The baseball trustees yesterday sent to Secretary Lorrin Andrews of the Baseball League their decisions in regard to the two protests disposed of at Tuesday's meeting.

## THE ELKS' RULING.

In the case of the protest of the Elks team the trustees go into the merits of the appeal very fully, and say that while the decision of the umpire is not governed by any specific rule, yet for the general good of the game there should be some penalty for interference with a runner. This decision is as follows:

Honolulu, August 19th, 1903.  
Lorrin A. Andrews, Esq., Secretary  
Honolulu Baseball League, Honolulu.

Sir: We hereby acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 14th inst., enclosing the protest and appeal of the Elks Club against a decision made by Umpire Lemon in the course of the league game played between the Honolulu Athletic Club and the Elks Club on August 8th, 1903.

The only ground of the protest and appeal is that Umpire Lemon ruled that Knight of the Elks team was out at the home plate, because Moore of the Elks team interfered with Catcher Leslie of the H. A. C.'s team, as Knight was running home from third base; the contention being that although Moore did illegally interfere with Catcher Leslie and thereby enable Knight to get safely home, the rules prescribe that the punishment for such illegal conduct on the part of Moore should be fine or suspension of Moore and not prescribe as a penalty that the runner who made his base through the assistance of such illegal interference should be declared out.

## FACTS ARE UNDISPUTED.

The facts involved in this case are undisputed. They are as follows: The Elks were at bat with two men out;

Knight of the Elks was on second base;

Cunha of the Elks made a two base hit going to second;

Knight attempted to run home from second;

Moore of the Elks was coaching from the coach's position at third base;

As Knight left third base Moore left the coach's position and ran down the line from third base to home, close to the line and a little ahead of Knight;

Catcher Leslie of the H. A. C.'s was standing just back and a little to the left of home plate;

The ball was thrown from center field to home, and just as Catcher Leslie was about to catch it, Moore ran into him knocking him to the ground, and Knight made his home.

## ELKS CLAIMS.

On behalf of the Elks it is claimed that the ball was too slow and that Knight would have made his home anyhow, had Moore not interfered.

On this point the umpire's evidence was that he was unable to say whether Knight would have made his home or whether Leslie would have caught the ball in time to put Knight out.

The umpire ruled that Knight was out which put the side out.

## UMPIRE'S RULING.

He based his ruling, not upon the hypothesis that Leslie would necessarily have caught the ball and put Knight out but that he having been illegally interfered with by Moore, one of the Elks team, so that it was impossible for the umpire to say whether or not Leslie would have put Knight out, he under the broad powers and discretion given to an umpire, ruled Knight out on the ground that not to do so would enable the Elks to score a run and perhaps win the game by foul playing.

To this contention the Elks reply that the legal rules prescribe certain fixed methods of putting a base runner out and that among these methods is not contained interference by another member of the club which is at the bat.

They claim that the base runner was not at fault and having arrived at home without being touched by the ball, was entitled to his run and the only punishment which could be inflicted was a fine or disqualification of Moore.

## RULE IS LACKING.

The case was fully presented to and argued before the Trustees by A. R. Cunha representing the Elks and Umpire Lemon representing himself.

The Trustees admit that the conten-

tion of the Elks is correct, that the rules do not prescribe that a base runner is out if he gains his base through improper interference with the baseman by another member of the team at bat.

There appears to be a clear lack of rule covering this point.

## HAS DISCRETIONARY POWER.

If there is no discretionary authority given the umpire in a case of this kind, the contention of the Elks would allow a member of a club at the bat to deliberately go on the field and hold a baseman, so that he could not catch the ball which was being thrown to him, and thereby allow a member of the batting club to score a run.

## RUNS FOR FINES.

It would appear to go further. If, for example, the club which was at bat had a man on first, second and third and the man at bat struck the ball, while it was being fielded to first, a member of the batting club coaching at first could rush on the field, hold the first baseman so that he could not catch the ball and continue to hold him until all four of the base runners had reached home, thereby scoring four runs, and the only penalty which could be inflicted on the batting club, would be a fine or disqualification of the offender.

The run or runs made under such circumstances might decide the game and that game might decide the championship for the season.

## METHODS NOT PERMISSIBLE.

It is unthinkable that such methods should be permissible in playing the game of baseball, and the only reason which the Trustees can conceive of why a rule prohibiting it was not included in the official rules, is that the baseball authorities who formulated the rules did not conceive that it was possible that a member of a club at bat would so far forget himself and clean sport as to go onto the diamond or so near thereto as to interfere with the fielders.

## MUST HAVE HIGH STANDARD.

In view of the deplorable consequences of establishing any such standard of playing in Honolulu, the Trustees would be loath to admit that the rules of baseball could be construed to permit the winning of games by such foul means.

But the Trustees are of the further opinion that the rules give the umpire full control of just such a situation as this, even though there is no specific rule declaring a base runner out when he has scored by the illegal assistance of a member of his own team.

Rule 56 of the Rules of 1903 concerning the "Status of the Umpire" is precisely the same in wording as Rule 41 of the Rules of 1902.

The wording of this rule is as follows:

"Rule 56. The Umpire is the representative of the League, and as such shall have power to enforce every section of the code of playing rules of the game; and he shall also have power to order any player, or captain or manager to do or omit to do any action that he may deem necessary to give force and effect to the laws of the game."

An explanatory foot note to this section in the printed rules of 1902, (and as the rule of 1903 on this subject is exactly the same as the rule of 1902 thereon, therefore equally applicable to the rule in 1903,) is as follows:

"This rule fully obliges the Umpire in a match game not only to see that every rule of the playing code is strictly abided by according to the letter of the law, but it also empowers him in the case of a special emergency to act as arbiter and judge in a case not exactly covered by the letter of the law, and to take the responsibility upon himself in the interests of the game at large."

## A SPECIAL EMERGENCY.

The Trustees are of opinion that the case at issue is a "special emergency," "not exactly covered by the letter of the law," and that, "the interests of the game at large" not only fully authorize the umpire to decide as he did, but that it would have been a rank injustice to the Honolulu Athletic Club and the establishment of a principle that games could be won in Honolulu by foul playing, which would be fatal to the best interests of clean, fair sport in this community, if he had decided otherwise.

The Trustees are therefore of opinion that the umpire had the discretion and power to make the ruling he did; that he exercised such discretion properly and justly and they therefore dismiss the protest and appeal.

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LORRIN A. THURSTON,  
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CHAS. F. CHILLINGWORTH.

## THE FORFEITED GAME.

In the case of the protest filed by the Mallees the reasoning was brief, and simply to the effect that the previous announcement of the Mallees' intention to forfeit the game was sufficient:

Honolulu, August 19th, 1903.  
Lorrin A. Andrews, Esq., Secretary  
Honolulu Baseball League, Honolulu.

Dear Sir: The Trustees of the Honolulu Baseball League hereby acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 14th inst., enclosing the protest and appeal of the Malle-Iluma Club against the forfeiture by Umpire George A. Bowers on the 30th day of May, 1903, of the game between the Punahou Club and the Malle-Iluma Club.

In reply I would say that the Trustees have duly considered the said protest and appeal and their decision is as follows:

## GROUND OF APPEAL.

The sole ground on which the protest is based is that on the 30th day of May, 1903, there being as usual two games scheduled, one at 1:30 o'clock and the other at 3:30 o'clock, one of the teams scheduled to play at 1:30 o'clock not appearing the game was forfeited to the team that did appear at 1:30.

The Punahou's and the Malle's were scheduled to play at 3:30 o'clock; but the 1:30 game having been forfeited the umpire instead of waiting until 3:30 o'clock proceeded after a ten-minute interval to call the second game, and, the Mallees not then appearing for five minutes he declared the second game forfeited.

The Mallees now claim that the umpire should have waited until 3:30 o'clock before calling the second game.

## ANNOUNCED A FORFEIT.

If the foregoing was all there was to the case the Trustees would be constrained to find in favor of the protest but it is common knowledge to all the clubs of the League and to the Trustees that at a meeting of the League, at which both the clubs and the Trustees were present, held on May 29th, 1903, it was formally and officially announced in open meeting by the representatives of both the Elks and the Mallees that they would not and could not play on May 30th, and that they would both forfeit their game if it was called.

The representatives of the Mallees knew that the Elks intended to forfeit the first game, and that the Malle-Punahou game would be called next. DID NOT CLAIM THEY WERE READY.

The Mallees did not on the 30th of May nor do they now claim that they would have been ready to go on at 3:30 o'clock.

All that the Trustees have before them is the fact that on the 29th day of May, the Mallees officially stated that they would not play on the 30th and were going to forfeit the game.

## NO INJUSTICE DONE.

Under these circumstances the Trust-

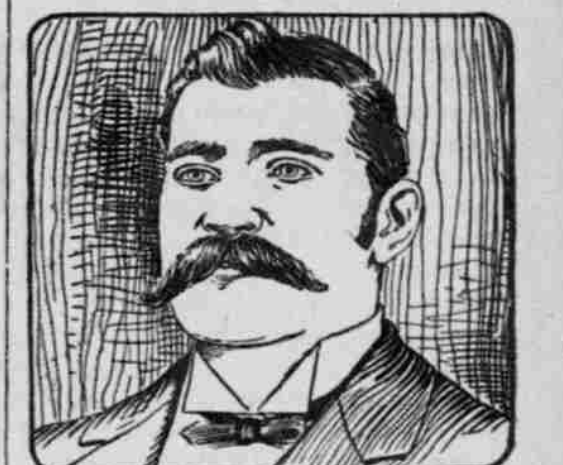
tees do not think that any injustice was done the Mallees by the umpire's decision and think that he properly forfeited the game to the Punahou Club; they therefore dismiss the protest and appeal.

Very truly yours,

LORRIN A. THURSTON,  
H. M. WHITNEY, JR.,  
CHAS. F. CHILLINGWORTH.

## Can't Eat

You certainly don't want to eat if you are not hungry. But you must eat, and you must digest your food, too. If not, you will become weak, pale, thin. Good food, good appetite, good digestion,—these are essential.



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